

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Directorate of Intelligence
27 April 1975

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM . .

The Situation in Indochina
(As of 1600 EDST)
No. 27

VIETNAM

Communist Divisions Attacking

1. The Communists continue to increase the pressure on Saigon's outer defense, and the cities of Bien Hoa, Vung Tau, and Tan An may fall shortly.

2. East of Saigon elements of five North Vietnamese divisions are pressing Vung Tau and Bien Hoa and they are consolidating their hold on Route 15 between Saigon and Vung Tau. Communist tanks have approached the government's main logistics base at Long Binh and are firing into the complex. Units of the North Vietnamese 341st Division are pushing west along the Route 1 corridor and now are just eight miles east of Bien Hoa. They may be moving around blocking positions set up by the government's 18th Division. Troops of the North Vietnamese 7th Division with supporting armor, moreover, are closing on Bien Hoa City from the north.

3. Southwest of Saigon the communists have cut Route 4 north of the Long An Province capital of Tan An, and the Ranger group assigned to the area is in retreat. Statements by senior government officials [redacted]

[redacted] indicate that Tan An will be attacked and probably fall by the night of April 27. The North Vietnamese have five divisions deployed on the western front and should be able to move virtually at will against hard-pressed government defenders.

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The Minh Government

4. South Vietnam's National Assembly voted unanimously to turn the government over to "Big" Minh, although nearly

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one-third of the 160-odd senators and congressmen abstained during the final vote. Minh reportedly plans to try to form his new government by tomorrow morning or afternoon at the latest.

5. The Communists so far have refused to comment on whether they regard Minh suitable for negotiations. A Provisional Revolutionary Government spokesman in Saigon, when questioned today by an AFP correspondent, would only say that his government insisted on three basic conditions: the removal of Thieu and his "clique," the complete withdrawal of the US, and the "elimination of the war machine." This latest demand broadcast yesterday by the Viet Cong's Liberation Radio, appears to call on Minh to make it an early order of business to call South Vietnam's military establishment to "stack arms" and cease further resistance.

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